Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4, 2002 TO FEBRUARY 8, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Rigs Drilling	January			The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta rose by 34.1% in January, reflecting the seasonal upturn in activity. Although the number of rigs drilling was down from last January's record level, it remains well above the 10-year average.
	354	34.1%	-16.1%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	December			The value of building permits in Canada decreased 9.7% in December, but is up 8.1% for 2001 as a whole. The value of non-residential permits fell by 15.6%, while residential permits fell by 5.2%. Alberta's monthly 19.5% decrease in building permits reflects a 4.9% decrease in the residential sector, and a decrease of 35.2% in the non-residential sector. For 2001 as a whole, building permits are up 12.2% in Alberta.
Alberta	517.3	-19.5%	28.7%	
Canada	3,136.9	-9.7%	0.4%	
Canadian Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	January			The last nine months have seen consecutive declines in the Canadian help-wanted index, although the drop of 0.8% in January leaves the index almost unchanged from December. No province showed an increase. Prince Edward Island (-5.7%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-4.8%), and British Columbia (-3.0%) had the largest declines. Year over year, the national index is down 27.3%. The help-wanted index is considered a leading indicator of labour demand.
Alberta	142	-2.7%	-19.3%	
Canada	125	-0.8%	-27.3%	